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PROGRESS OF THE WORLD

NATIONAL Conventions were held by the Republican and Democratic parties at the appointed times, respectively at Chicago and San Francisco. The former, after brief deliberation, discarded the leading candidates, both for and against whom some strong feeling had been manifested, and nominated a ticket heartily acceptable to all factions of the party:

For President, Warren G. Harding, Senator from Ohio;

For Vice-President, Calvin Coolidge, Governor of Massachusetts.

The Democratic convention had a more protracted session, marked with some bitter animosities, and did not effect a nomination for President until the forty-fourth ballot, when the party "bosses" forced the selection of the candidate who from the first had been their favorite and the leader of the field. The ticket at the end of a full week's contest, stood:

For President, James M. Cox, Governor of Ohio;

For Vice-President, Franklin D. Roosevelt, of New York, Assistant Secretary of the Navy.

All four candidates being personally above criticism, controversial interest was centered upon the platforms. The chief contrast between them was in the planks relating to the League of Nations. The Democratic platform, dictated by President Wilson with the obvious purpose of making "a great and solemn referendum" on the League the foremost issue of the campaign, demanded the ratification of the Covenant of the League practically without the crossing of a *t* or dotting of an *i*, save possibly for addenda which would make more clear and emphatic the *obligations* incurred by the United States. The Republican plat-

form, welcoming the issue, demanded cooperation among the free nations for the maintenance of peace on a basis of international law and justice, pledging the United States to perform its duties to humanity and civilization, from which it has never shrunk; but insisting that this nation, in its integrity and independence, must itself always be the judge of its own duties and of the manner in which they are to be performed, and inflexibly opposed the ratification of the Covenant of the League save with reservations which would effectively protect this nation in the exercise of such freedom and independence, and would maintain the supremacy in American affairs of the Constitution of the United States and the Monroe Doctrine. The question of the League of Nations, or rather of the terms upon which the United States should participate in the international affairs of the world, was thus by both platforms put forward as the paramount issue of the campaign.

The International Suffrage Alliance Congress at Geneva implicated the participation and the activities of many nations. No fewer than twenty-one were reported to have adopted equal suffrage for the sexes. Yet its net results are declared by some of its foremost members, especially from this country, to have been unsatisfactory and disappointing. A certain damper was doubtless thrown upon its proceedings by the failure of suffragists thus far to secure ratification of the suffrage amendment to the Constitution of the United States. The vote of just one State is lacking, and has long been lacking despite the utmost efforts to secure it. Since the two National conventions the matter has been thrown pretty completely into party politics, each party seeking to gain the prestige of having a State of its faith provide the lacking ratification. Both President Wilson and Governor Cox have made appeals to Democratic States to ratify the amendment, not on the ground of public welfare or of justice to women, but solely or chiefly on the ground of partisan advantage—of “duty to the party.” A more unworthy ground of appeal in such a case it would be difficult to imagine, than thus to demand a radical modification of the fundamental law of the nation just for the sake of partisan advantage in the coming election. It is noteworthy that promptly upon the emission of that plea, the Legislatures of two Democratic

States, with expressions of resentment, refused to ratify the amendment. Senator Harding, on the other hand, on being asked to exert pressure upon Republican States, replied that it would not be proper for him thus to attempt to dictate to any State, but that if his opinion were asked by any State he would frankly favor ratification. He said, however, not a word about party duty or party advantage, but obviously placed his advocacy of ratification on the preferable basis of right and public welfare. That was obviously the dignified and proper attitude to assume, and it seems not unlikely to be more effective than the partisan appeal of the President and his would-be successor.

A fine quality of both poetic justice and practical efficiency characterizes the course of the Powers in assigning to Greece the welcome task of disposing of the remains of the age-long Turkish problem. That will mean, apparently, not alone the extinction of Ottoman sovereignty in Europe but also its great reduction if not its destruction in Asia Minor. The Greek campaign in Anatolia has thus far been highly prosperous, and has already compassed the capture of Broussa, one of the two or three cities in all the world most cherished and venerated by the tribe of Othman. Founded at the suggestion of Hannibal, and for many years the capital of the Kings of Bithynia, it was seized by Othman himself and was the capital of the empire for forty years, under Orkhan and Amurath, until the latter achieved the conquest of Adrianople. Thus it was the first of the three capitals which the Ottoman Empire has had. The only one of the three now remaining in even nominal possession of the Turks is Constantinople, and the fate of Broussa may well be a writing on the wall predicting the ultimate and by no means remote disposition of that metropolis. If the Greeks succeed, as they bid fair to do, in winding up the business of the Turk in both Europe and Asia, it will be difficult indeed for anybody to resist their acquisition of the historic city on the Bosphorus to which they, of all nations, have the best right. It was against the Greek Empire that the original attack of the Turks was directed. It will be well to have the reborn power of Greece administer the death stroke to the Unspeakable One.

The conference of the Powers at Spa was noteworthy for the recognition which was there given to the German representatives as equals. Just a year before at Versailles they were segregated and caged; as though they were wild beasts, or at least members of an inferior and savage race. At Spa they were taken by the hand and treated much as though there had been no war in which Germany outlawed herself from civilization. That, however, was merely diplomatic courtesy. When the conference "came to grips" over disputed matters the Allies dictated to the Germans as ruthlessly and relentlessly as at Versailles. Mr. Lloyd George bluntly told them that he had no faith in their intentions to fulfil the treaty, and despite the pumped-up whining of the German Chancellor a peremptory ultimatum was given, to disband the army and disarm the people, in accord with the treaty, or take the consequences in the further occupation of German territory by Allied forces. The Germans completely stultified themselves by admitting that they had never seriously tried to fulfil those provisions of the treaty; which of course was no news to the Allies or to the world at large. They also made the absurd pretence that the Allies would have no right to occupy more of their land, even though they did not fulfil their treaty obligations; a characteristic German protest, which doubtless made rich appeal to Marshal Foch's sense of humor.

By striking coincidence the death of General Gorgas occurred simultaneously with a menacing outbreak of the plague in at least two of our Southern States. That distinguished soldier-sanitarian had lately added another great achievement to his record, by eliminating yellow fever from the Ecuadorean coast, as he had formerly done in Cuba and Panama, and by making Guayaquil for the first time in two centuries a safe place in which to live. He was also engaged in the Herculean task of ridding the South African mining region from pestilence, and was preparing in still other important directions to promote the ideal of his immortal exemplar, Pasteur, of causing all germ-produced diseases to vanish from the earth. Dying in England, he received such international mortuary honors as seldom have been given to men of less than sovereign rank. To others is left the work which he might have

done, of combating and ultimately suppressing that pestilence which is appropriately called by no specific name but generically The Plague. In its three allied forms it has probably been by far the most deadly and destructive of all human maladies. Yet there is none more readily and more surely to be conquered, through the methods of which Pasteur was the first and greatest apostle, and General Gorgas was the most effective practitioner. The cases which have occurred in Florida and Texas appear all to have been of the bubonic type, which is the least formidable of the three, but which still calls for most prompt and energetic action if the country is to be saved from disaster.

Irish affairs go from bad to worse. Interest now centres not on what Parliament may enact, but on what the British army may do. What is practically a state of civil war prevails throughout the island, with formidable movements of troops and frequent and numerous loss of life. Sinn Fein has, moreover, set up a civil government which is said to be doing more business than the British Government in Ireland. It conducts judicial proceedings of all kinds, collects taxes, maintains police, and performs most of the domestic functions of government—facts which go much further toward entitling it to recognition than the more flamboyant proceedings upon which demands for recognition have generally been based; though of course there is no thought of recognition by any responsible power. Meantime Sir Horace Plunkett, probably the most unselfishly and intelligently patriotic man in Ireland, though one of the least appreciated, renews the wise suggestion of readjustment of Irish relations with Great Britain on a Dominion basis.

The new government in Mexico manifests an apparently sincere and intelligent desire to improve relations with the United States through a settlement of those economic questions which have been at the bottom of most of the trouble. The Provisional President makes it known that this country will have no cause to fear any of the confiscatory plans which were made by his predecessor, but that American property rights will be respected, and American investments will be adequately protected. That

is, of course, all that can be asked. American investments in Mexican oil fields and railroads cannot give Americans sovereignty over that country. They must be subject to the sovereignty of the Mexican Government, and to the jurisdiction of Mexican laws and courts. All that we have a right to demand is that that government shall perform its normal duty of maintaining order and of protecting life and property, and that those laws and courts shall be equitable and impartial. A firm insistence upon such conditions of our Government would be immeasurably more fitting and more profitable than "watchful waiting" for a chance to meddle in Mexican domestic politics.